GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3739
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Accessibility of Legal Service
K. Shri Parasuraman;Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned about the hurdles to common citizen for accessibility of legal services;

(b) if so, whether the Government has already initiated free legal services scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of legal services centres established by the Government, State-wise and the financial assistance provided to the States during the last three years in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has taken any efforts to ensure that legal aid reach the poor of the country and people in rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has launched or planning to launch digital and mobile courts and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 envisages setting up of legal services institutions at all levels from the level of taluk courts to the Supreme Court.

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Free legal services are provided to all eligible categories of persons under Section 12 of the Act. The free legal services include payment of court fees, charges for drafting, preparing and filing of any legal proceedings and representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings etc. During the financial year 2016-17, more than 5.47 lakh persons have benefited through legal aid services in the country. A total number of 21, 405 legal services clinics have been established in the country as on 31.01.2017. Statement showing details of legal services clinics set up state wise is given at Annexure.

The Government has also launched three new legal aid and empowerment schemes, namely, Tele-Law, Nyaya Mitra and Pro-Bono legal services recently for poor and marginalized persons.

Annual Grants allocated to the State Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are Rs. 53.41 crores, Rs. 57.04 crores and Rs. 110.09 crores respectively.

(e) There is no proposal to launch digital and mobile courts. However, under eCourts Mission Mode Project, nearly 16, 000 courts in the country have been computerized.

Annexure
Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3739 for 09.08.2017 regarding Accessibility of Legal Services.
State-wise details of f Legal Services Clinics established in the country as on 31.01.2017.

S.No.	Name of the SLSAs	Number of Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.01.2017
1	Andhra Pradesh	709
2	Arunachal Pradesh	15
3	Assam	199
4	Bihar	398

5 Chhattisgarh 458
6 Goa 116
7 Gujarat 653
8 Haryana 519
9 Himachal Pradesh 1051
10 Jammu & Kashmir 212
11 Jharkhand 410
12 Karnataka 625
13 Kerala 898
14 Madhya Pradesh 845
15 Maharashtra 750
16 Manipur 37
17 Meghalaya 128
18 Mizoram 79
19 Nagaland 117
20 Odisha 524
21 Punjab 326
22 Rajasthan 5869
23 Sikkim 34
24 Tamil Nadu 797
25 Telangana 368
26 Tripura 178
27 Uttar Pradesh 3630
28 Uttarakhand 255
29 West Bengal 1013
30 Andaman and Nicobar Islands 30
31 U.T. Chandigarh 20
32 Dadra and Nagar Haveli 14
33 Daman & Diu 11
34 Delhi 51
35 Lakshadweep 1
36 Puducherry 65
Total 21405